HOBART HISTORY NEWS

No. 68, March 1996 *706 E. 4th St., P.O. Box 24, Hobart, Indiana*

1996 Marks 149 Years of Hobart History

1995 Annual Report of the Society

The question everyone asks us these days is "When is the next book coming out?" The answer: we hope to publish *Hobart Memories* this summer. By late summer 1995 we had collected more than enough reminiscences to publish a second book. Editing and preparation for printing has been slowed by the press of other work.

We made more progress on the building this year. Bob Hutchens replaced the door on the outside stairwell to the basement. Bob is responsible for much of the improved state of the building, and we are grateful for his help. Over the summer, Rita and Keith McBride cleared out the downstairs kitchen and removed the deteriorated plaster. Now we need to develop a plan to rewire, repair the walls and put down new flooring.

The Wednesday work sessions are on hold through the winter, but this group—Oyjdal Isakson, Letitia Keilman, Rita McBride, and Elin Christianson—have completed weeding and reorganizing the resource and picture files, including a huge backlog of pictures that had not yet been filed. They also organized the file of abstracts of title and prepared an index for it, thus making a lot of interesting information accessible for the first time.

Until this year there were no known copies of the first two years of the Hobart Gazette. Imagine our delight when we received a donation of these issues. They have now been microfilmed by the Indiana newspaper microfilm project. We have both microfilm and the original issues at the Museum. Copies of the microfilm have also been deposited with the Indiana State Library and the Indiana Historical Society. Best of all, we have gained two more years of Hobart history, August 1889 to April 1891, in 1995.

Another unique resource is the Hobart obituary file. Sadie Aldrin created this file, beginning in 1975. Now Sadie has passed her responsibility on to Myrtle Anderson who will carry the work forward. Thank you, Sadie, for your dedication.

As usual, we have worked frequently with the Hobart and area newspapers, answering their questions about Hobart history and preparing historical features for the *Gazette*. We also helped our neighboring society, the Merrillville-Ross Township Historical Society, with planning for their new museum in the former Merrillville Town Hall. Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana sent us the Hobart data from the Lake County Sites and Structures Inventory for checking. This led to several very busy weeks, driving around Hobart looking at homes and other buildings. This survey, which we actively supported, will be published this spring.

1996 opened with "Auto Indiana," a special exhibit on loan from the Indiana Historical Society. This proved to be very popular and brought many extra visitors to the Museum. The coming year will continue to be busy as we pursue our 1996 plans and prepare for Hobart's sesquicentennial in 1997.

We would like to thank you for your contributions and interest. We hope we are earning your continuing support in preserving and promoting Hobart history.

Elin Christianson, President

1995 Annual Report of the Museum Director

Visitors at the museum slightly increased in numbers in 1995. Classes from the Middle School and Liberty School toured the museum and heard lectures. The Home Extension Club and Meshowke-to-quah Chapter, D.A.R., held meetings in the evening. We especially enjoyed seeing the former Hobart Band folks from out of town who came back to Hobart for the Revelli festivities in April. Visitors registered from Illinois, Maryland, Colorado, Virginia, West Virginia, California, Iowa, Wisconsin, Connecticut, Kentucky and Arizona. Foreign visitors were from Moscow, Russia, and Madrid, Spain.

Special exhibits during the year included the Hobart High School Band: The Revelli Years; World War II and Hobart souvenirs.

Thanks to Marian Colburn, Helen Hopp, Eleanor Thurow, Margaret DeLeurere, Franklin Rhoades, Oyjdal Isakson, and Letitia Keilman for volunteering at the Museum on Saturdays. We always need docents for a few hours on a Saturday or for school tours and would welcome new volunteers.

Hobart History Donations in 1995

Our thanks to all those who donated bits and pieces of Hobart history this year or who contributed services. They are:

Archives and Library: Garry Addison, John K. Ballantyne, L.F. Cargill, Elin Christianson, Mary Fick, Mary Jane Galler Butler, June Ekstedt, Hobart Public Library, Edward Ingram, Letitia Keilman, Mabel Keilman, Marjorie Kilander, Harry Kneifel, Jr., American Legion, Robert Maybaum, James R. Nichols, Marlene Popp, Cal and Vayda Shearer, Betty Stratton, Myrtle Truby, and Emily Zinnen.

Flags to fly in front of the Museum: U.S.: Eric Allen and Leonard Ols. Indiana: Eric Allen, Stan and Elin Christianson, and Connie and Stew Mattix.

Services and Supplies: Henry Kopica; Odell-Smith Jewelers; Ed Williamson, Triple Maintenance; Dave Wilson, Monroe Pest Control.

Exhibits: Alexander Ballantyne, Unitarian Church tile
Dorothy Ballantyne, Post Office combination lock and box lid, Old Mill bank
Irene Frazier, church and school plates and tiles, Baumer pie server, HFS dishes
Hobart Public Library, old bottles found on Main Street property
Bob and Maxine Hutchens, bricks from Mundell School
Crystal Jackson, stuffed groundhog
Letitia Keilman, 1925 band letter
Linda Robinson Lunn, 1990s Desert Storm uniform
Robert Maybaum, quilt made by his father in 1934
Jerry Rees, Vietnam Memorial scrapbook
Revelli Foundation (Bands of America), Revelli CD
Franklin Rhoades, WWII army hats, Baumers Bakery trays
Rosetta C. Rosenbaum, drawing
Betty Stratton, Band medals and letters, WWII mother's hat
LaVerne Ferguson Usher, banner from 1985 ribbon displayed in Washington, D.C.
George Vossberg, trumpet

1995 Donors

Memorials

Kerbert Earle (by Leona Earle)
Don E. Frankenhauser (by Madeline Frankenhauser)
Rosella Henschel (by Myrtle Trubey)
Rosella Henschel (by the Carl Sapper family)
George L. James (by Doris James)
LeRoy L. Woodruff (by Ruby Woodruff)

Benefactors (Over $100)

Budget Bookkeeping
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Mamon Powers
Genevieve Sallas
Don and Ann Sporre
Charles and Lorraine Smith
Smith Insurance Agency
Bruce Webber

Necrology

It saddens us to report the death of the following members and friends this past year: F. Hardee Allen, Louise Bergstrom, Oscar Berlin, June Brown, Paul Clayron, Jr., Glatis Colburn, Kerbert Earle, Charles Ekstedt, Clarence Harney, Edith Hatten, Rosella Henschel, J. Paul Heuring, Ray Nelson, Herbert Ols, Grace Peterson, John Plummer, Beatrice Storey, George Vossberg, Lorraine Vossberg, Paul Woodruff.

Hobart Historical Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 24
Hobart, IN 46342-0024

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Hobart Historical Society Museum
706 East Fourth Street, Hobart
Open Saturdays 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
(219) 942-0970

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TO: Mrs. Walter Isakson, Treasurer
Hobart Historical Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 24
Hobart, IN 46342-0024

Here is my annual contribution of $_____ to help preserve the past, present and future of Hobart History. (Contributions are tax-deductible.)

Senior Citizen Member. . . .$ l.00	Sustaining Member* . . . $ 25.00
Youth Member 2.00	Supporting Member* 50.00
Personal Member 5.00	Century Club Member* . . l00.00

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*Please give name in the way it should appear in the annual list of donors. Thank you.

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